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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/603,356	06/26/2000	Ray C. H. Cheng	77666-5	3257

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EXAMINER

EDELMAN, BRADLEY E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2153

11

DATE MAILED: 04/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/603,356

Applicant(s)

CHENG ET AL.

Examiner

Bradley Edelman

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 March 2004.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☒ Claim(s) 23 and 27-30 is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22, 24-26 and 31-35 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 June 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is in response to Applicant's request for reconsideration and Affidavit filed under 37 CFR 1.131 on March 19, 2004. Claims 1-35 are presented for further consideration. These are the original claims, which have not been amended.

Response to Amendment

The Affidavit filed on March 19, 2004 under 37 CFR 1.131 has been considered and is effective to overcome the M2 Presswire reference. As a result, Examiner hereby issues a new non-final Office action.

Response to Arguments

Applicant has made no arguments regarding the substance of the art cited by Examiner as it relates to the 35 USC 103 rejections.

Note that Examiner took Official Notice with regard to certain well-known claim limitations. Applicant has not traversed these assertions in either of Applicant's two responses. Therefore, Applicant's failure to traverse these Official Notice statements serves as evidence of Applicant's admission that the asserted features are in fact well known in the art. See MPEP § 2144.03(C).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-22, 24-26, and 31-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parker (Single Sign-On Systems - the Technologies and the Products," 1995), in view of PR Newswire ("Microsoft Passport Offers Streamlined Purchasing Across Leading Web Sites," October 11, 1999, hereinafter "PR").

In considering claims 1, 24, and 26, Parker discloses a method, network device, and computer usable medium for conveying access control information (a.c.i.) from one network device to another network device through an end user device, comprising: The one network device ("remote security server") in response to a first message received from the end user device ("user") containing access control information ("authentication ticket"), sending a response message ("access ticket") to the end user device containing the a.c.i. (p. 152, ¶ 3, lines 1-5), the response message being adapted to cause the end user device to send a second message to the another network device ("target") containing at least part of the a.c.i. (p. 152, ¶ 3, lines 5-6); Wherein at least part of the a.c.i. is used to control access to a protected resource on at least one of the first and second network devices (p. 152, ¶ 3, wherein the tickets are used to access protected resources).

However, Parker does not disclose that the two network devices are on different domains. Instead, Parker simply states that the two servers are "part of the single sign-on product." Nonetheless, allowing single sign-on to network devices from different domains on a single sign-on system is well known, as evidenced by PR. In a similar art,

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PR discloses a multi-domain single sign-on system that allows Internet domains owned by different companies or business partners to both participate in the single sign-on system (p. 3, ¶ 3, "Passport allows consumers to use a single sign-in name and electronic wallet at participating sites, reducing the amount of information they need to remember or retype."). Thus, given the teaching of PR, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to use the single sign-on system taught by Parker for multiple domains, as taught by PR, to reduce the amount of information that users of multiple sites need to retype.

In considering claim 2, Parker further discloses that the response message contains the a.c.i. (the "access ticket") and a network device identifier for the another network device (i.e. receipt of the access ticket instructs the user device to access the another network device, p. 152, ¶ 3). Parker further discloses that the second message contains at least part of the a.c.i. (p. 152, ¶ 3, i.e. the "access ticket").

However, neither Parker nor PR discuss which part of the communication packet (i.e. header or content portion) contains the a.c.i. Nonetheless, Examiner takes official notice that including information in either the header or content portion of a data packet is well known in the art. Thus, storing the a.c.i. in the content portion, as claimed in claim 2, rather than in the header portion, would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to simplify header processing of the packet.

In considering claim 3, Parker further discloses that the first message has a header portion and a content portion (inherent in any Internet communication system), and further discloses extracting the a.c.i. from the packet for use in the response message (p. 152, ¶ 3, wherein the access ticket is extracted from the response and placed in the second message for delivery to the target).

However, neither Parker nor PR discuss which part of the communication packet (i.e. header or content portion) contains the a.c.i. Nonetheless, Examiner takes official notice that including information in either the header or content portion of a data packet is well known in the art. Thus, storing the a.c.i. in the header portion, as claimed in claim 3, rather than in the content portion, would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to simplify content processing of the packet.

In considering claim 4, Parker further discloses that the first message has a header portion and a content portion (inherent in any Internet communication system), and further discloses extracting the a.c.i. from the packet for use in the response message (p. 152, ¶ 3, wherein the access ticket is extracted from the response and placed in the second message for delivery to the target).

However, neither Parker nor PR discuss which part of the communication packet (i.e. header or content portion) contains the a.c.i. Nonetheless, Examiner takes official notice that including information in either the header or content portion of a data packet is well known in the art. Thus, storing the a.c.i. in the content portion, as claimed in

claim 4, rather than in the header portion, would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to simplify header processing of the packet.

In considering claim 5, Parker further discloses that hidden content is used in the response message to contain the a.c.i. (the "access ticket" is not actually seen by the user).

In considering claims 6, 12 and 16, although the system taught by Parker and PR teaches substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose presenting an option to the end user device for user acceptance or to change and/or delete any of the user-specific information before sending the message to the another network. Nonetheless, Examiner takes official notice that changing user profile information in a network access system is well known in the art. Thus, given this knowledge, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to change the user-specific information in the system taught by Parker and PR before sending the message to the another network, to give the user manual control over the method of presentation of the requested data.

In considering claim 7, PR further discloses formatting the messages as a custom content type (p. 2, lines 18-21, "extensive customization"). Thus, given the teaching of PR, it would have been obvious to include the custom content type in the

content portion of the response taught by Parker, so that the user entering the second domain could still gain access to a personalized, customized information.

In considering claim 8, Parker further discloses that at least part of the response message is protected by cryptographic means (p. 152, ¶ 5, line 1, "protected cryptographically").

In considering claim 9, Examiner takes official notice that the use of HTTP on the Internet is notoriously well known. Therefore it would have been obvious for the messages taught by Parker to be HTTP messages, so that the system taught by Parker could be used with the majority of Internet applications and documents.

In considering claim 10, Parker further discloses that the a.c.i. is a ticket. Although Parker does not explicitly use the term "cookie" or describe the use of cookies, the ticket taught by Parker performs the same function as a "cookie."

In considering claims 11 and 14, PR further discloses the use of user-specific information in requesting documents from the multi-domain SSO system (p. 2, lines 18-21, "extensive customization"; p. 1, ¶ 2, "electronic wallet that stores all their billing and shipping information..."). Thus, given the teaching of PR, it would have been obvious to pass instructions regarding user-specific information in the response taught by Parker

and including the user-specific information in the second message, so that the user entering the second domain could still gain access to a personalized information.

In considering claim 13, Parker further discloses an initial network device ("remote authentication server") accessed by the end user device, the method further comprising:

Prior to sending the response message,

a. the initial network device receiving an initial access request from the end user device to access a protected resource on the initial network device (p. 152, ¶ 2, lines 1-2);

b. the initial network device performing an authentication process to determine if access should be granted ("authentication") and if so, responding with an access response message specifying the a.c.i. ("date token or certificate which can subsequently be used to prove the user's identity") in association with the domain of the initial network device and causing the end user device to send the first message (p. 152, ¶ 2, lines 2-7; ¶ 3, lines 1-4); and

On an ongoing basis after performing the authentication process allowing subsequent access to the protected resource to requests containing the access control information (p. 152, col. 2, lines 4-8).

Although Parker refers to the initial device ("remote authentication server") and the one network device ("remote security server") as different devices (and thus does not teach that the one network device is an initial device, as claimed), it would have

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been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to merge these two devices into one, as claimed, in order to decrease network traffic and simplify the network communications in the system.

In considering claim 15, PR further discloses that the user specific information comprises at least one of purchase enabling information and personal data ("billing and shipping information," p.1, ¶ 2).

In considering claim 17, Parker further discloses protecting the a.c.i. information via cryptographic means. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to additionally use cryptographic means to protect the user-specific information to increase security of the system.

In considering claim 18, claim 18 includes no further limitations over claims 1, 2, and 4, except that claim 18 requires that the a.c.i. is in both the header and the content portion of the response message. Nonetheless, Examiner takes official notice that including information in a header and a data portion of a packet is well known. Thus, storing the a.c.i. in the header portion and the content portion, as claimed in claim 18 would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to balance the processing on both the header and the content portion of the packet.

In considering claim 19, Parker further discloses that the another network device is specified in the input message (p. 152, ¶ 3, lines 1-2, "user selects a target application server to access").

In considering claim 20, Parker further discloses that the another network device is specified by the network device (p. 152, ¶ 3, lines 4-6).

In considering claim 21, claim 21 contains no further limitations over claims 18 and 13, except that claim 21 requires that the response to the initial access request includes the a.c.i. in the header portion of the packet. Nonetheless, Examiner takes official notice that including information in either the header or content portion of a data packet is well known in the art. Thus, storing the a.c.i. in the header portion, as claimed in claim 21, rather than in the content portion, would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to simplify content processing of the packet.

In considering claim 22, Parker further discloses the claimed authentication step (p. 152, ¶ 2, "authentication").

In considering claim 25, Parker further discloses a network device (server) adapted to implement the method of claim 18.

In considering claims 31-33, claims 31-33, taken as a whole, contain no further limitations over claim 21, and are thus rejected for the same reasons as claim 21.

Claim 34 contains the same limitations as claim 31, and is thus rejected for the same reasons as discussed in claim 21 as well.

Claim 35 contains no further limitations over claims 1, 2, 11, and 12 combined, and is thus rejected for the same reasons as stated regarding those claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 23, and 27-30 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: In considering claim 23, the prior art of record fails to disclose or render obvious all of the limitations of the claim. Claims 27-30 depend from claim 23, and thus are allowable as well.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. The newly cited reference entitled "Single Sign-On in Windows 2000 Networks" (from the Microsoft website) describes a Single Sign-On system for use across multiple domains that is very similar to the system claimed (see pp. 1-4).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bradley Edelman whose telephone number is (703) 306-3041. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glen Burgess can be reached on (703) 305-4792. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

For all After Final papers: (703) 746-7238.

For all other correspondences: (703) 746-7239.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

BE
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April 15, 2004


HOSAIN ALAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER